

SB 1031

Thank you Co-Chair Coleman, Co-Chair Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee for allowing me the opportunity to give testimony to support proposed bills to increase penalties on manslaughter with a motor vehicle.

Our family suffered a tragic and senseless loss on January 28, 2010. A bright and gifted young woman was killed when the car she was a passenger in was driven by an intoxicated man. This man, ironically, was her boss. They were on business and were out to a wine tasting event sponsored by the restaurant she worked at. Her boss turned that event into a nightmare that will never end for us. He took it upon himself to drink the night away. This was an irresponsible man taking advantage of free alcohol.

This man finally was convicted of second degree manslaughter with a motor vehicle and will spend three and one half years in jail. This sentence is a poor excuse of justice. We lose a loved one and the criminal gets a slap on the wrist. The laws in Connecticut are not severe enough to try and prevent these types of deaths regardless whether or not this was a first offense or if the law deems it an accident. This was no accident that this man decided to get drunk enough and then decide to drive a car with a passenger. We are asking for tougher sentences for all drunk driving related deaths. God forbid you should lose a loved one as we have to this kind of behavior.

Thank You,

Bob Petrolito